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To Friends of Truth in London or elsewhere, as service for this may be found.

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Dear friends & brethen!

WEE who were a first-fruits unto God in the East parts of York-shire, do most dearly salute you in the love of God, and desire that mercy and peace may be multiplied amongst you, who have obtained like precious faith with us, through the working of the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, which hath plentifully been made manifest in his Light, whereby we were inlightned whilst we sat in darkness, and were Aliens in our minds from the Life, which was, and is *the light of Men*: for our eye was blinded by the god of this world, and our minds drawn outward from the light within, by such Shepheards as did not understand nor know the great Mysterie of godliness, *God manifest in the flesh*, who in ancient time was preached in the Gentiles

Gentiles, to whom God (after a long dark night of Apoſtacy) hath again made known the riches of his grace, and revealed the glory of this myſterie, *Chriſt within*, the light of the Gentiles, and glory of Iſrael; by whom his righteous ſervants have been anoynted, upheld, and ſent forth to open the blind eye, and turne men from darkneſſe to light; that therein (as in an univerſall Principle, wherein ſalvation is prepared before the face of all people) the gathering of all Nations might be, which we do not only wait, but hope for; and therefore are exceeding loath that any ſtübling block ſhould lie in the way of the ſimple (either in this age, or in the ages to come) that we may be any way inſtrumentall to to remove: For having our hearts deeply affected with the mercy which we have obtained, it is the deſire of our ſoules, that all may obtain mercy, ſeeing the love of God is ſhed in our hearts, by the holy Spirit, which was poured upon us in the day of our gathering; whereby we were baptized into one body, and have been preſerved together in unity, holding the head, Chriſt, of whoſe fulneſſe we have received power to ſtand ſtedfaſt, and unſhaken in mind unto this day, notwithſtanding the various ſpirits, words, and Letters, that have gone forth to try us, knowing there is no other Spirit to be received, then that of God by which we were convinced, nor any other truth to be made known, nor any thing to be diſperſed amongſt the Sonns of men (in order to their ſouls health and eternall welfare) but by it: therefore we do prize it as the Pearl of ineſtimable value, for which we have counted all things elſe but

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droſſe & dung, and cannot but endeavour, that you with us, and we with you (and all that have felt the operation of it in any meaſure) may ſtand together in the unity of the ſpirit, and bond of peace, as becometh us, who are called to the glory and vertue of an immortall life, Wherefore ſeeing the Spirit of God hath ſignified unto us, (as well as unto the ancient Chriſtians) that falſe-aſpiring Spirits ſhould get the forme of true words, and amongſt our ſelves (as well as amongſt them) men ariſe ſpeaking perverſe things, and ſeek to draw Diſciples after them, Let us watch againſt them, and be ſtedfaſt in that one ſpirit, by which we were firſt convinced, and have had an acceſſe to the Father, which Spirit being pure, ſearcheth all things, even the deep things of God; whereby diſcerning and ſound judgement (according to the promiſe of God by the mouth of his holy Prophets) is given to us who are waſhed, and ſanctified, in the Name, and by the Spirit of our God, which hath made us ſenſible how Satan hath ever wreſtled ſubtilly to wreſt judgement from us, under ſpecious pretences of *charity*, *tenderneſſe*, and *forbearance*, which indeed are divine vertues that we deſire may more and more abound, being ſenſible that they ſtand in unity with the true diſcerning, and ſound judgement of ſpirits and things which God hath given us, which we deſire may ever be held faſt: for if the Adverſary could but wreſt that from us, or draw us from the Principle wherein it ſtands, he might eaſily lead us into uncertainties, and fill us with doubting and confuſion, and ſo bring us back into corruption and condemnation

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againſt: But bleſſed is the day-ſpring wherein we were viſited, and have been ſhewed his wiles, in which the eternall power of God, time after time hath been made manifeſt, for the increaſe and ſtrengthening of our faith, and to preſerve and deliver us from evill: Therefore we cānot doubt of the love of God to us, neither can it enter into our hearts, that the Lord (who hath called us friends) will hide any thing from us, or you, that concerns our eternall peace; and therefore we do not write theſe things unto you, becauſe you do not know the truth, but becauſe we, and you, do know there is no lie of the truth. And leſt any ſimple heart ſhould be betrayed, or filled with prejudice againſt any of Gods choſen Veſſells, by the inſtigation of a certain Man (that went out from amongſt us) called *John Harwood*, we judge it a duty incumbent upon us, in ſincerity, and without perſonall prejudice, to teſtifie and declare thus much concerning him: Having had a true knowledge of the temper of his ſpirit, and manner of life. We do witneſſe, that from the time he firſt began to profeſſe the Truth, we have rather had a godly jealouſie over him, then unity and fellowſhip with him; fearing that he did not at firſt enter by the door into the ſheep-fold, but was begotten by, and into an unruly, heady, high ſpirit, and was never to our feeling thorowly ſubjected under the power of the Truth; though he quickly got the forme, and was apt to admire ſome Perſons (which he now reproaches) for advantage-ſake, till he had (in his wiſdome) gotten the words of Truth, and an apprehenſion of things believed amongſt us:

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But when (at any time) he did ſpeak amongſt us, we could not feel his ſpirit ſo ſeaſoned with grace and vertue, as to anſwer the witneſſe of God in us; but were rather burthened with him; And therefore (both privately and publiquely) he hath been admoniſhed, reproved, and judged amongſt us, for things wherein we ſaw and felt him wrong: But hoping that he would lay things to heart, and have Repentance unto Life given him, we forbore to tell what we knew of him to the whole Church: but having of late ſeen a deceitfull, falſe, and ſcandalous Paper (put forth by him to go amongſt all Friends) we do clearly diſcerne that he is grown worſe and worſe, and hath dealt treacherouſly in the Land of uprightneſſe, and added envy and lying to his former unrulineſſe, pride, and hypocriſie, ſo that we have ground to believe he is become deſperately wicked, and the rather, becauſe we ſee his envy ſo great againſt *G: F:* whom God counted worthy to be a prime Inſtrument, in the great and glorious worke, which he hath wrought in this age, which evidently appears in his wreſting things (that were good & laudible in their ſeaſon) to an evill purpoſe, which they never did (nor could in their own nature) tend unto: But principally we look upon him to be deſperately wicked, becauſe we ſee, he hath no regard to the Truth it ſelfe, but hath as much as in him lies (notwithſtanding his ſpecious pretences to the contrary) both expoſed it, and us that love it to the malice and ſcorne of our adverſaries: Wherefore, it makes us tremble to behold that he hath the impudency to affirme, *That God laid it upon him to*

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Publish amongst us Lines so treacherous, envious, and false, wherein there is no savour of life to life in us: and therefore we judge it good for nothing, but fewell for the fire, and him to be looked upon as a man out of the true fear of God: and therefore do exhort all that love the Truth to beware of him, as of unsavoury salt that is good for nothing; and do not receive an accusation from him, against any of the Lords People, and much lesse, not against an Elder, without proofe of two or three Witnesses, which are known to be faithfull.

Thus having given our testimony in the sight of the Lord concerning this matter, in love we remain your friends, desiring your welfare and prosperity in the Truth; and if it be the will of God, we desire that he may have his sins forgiven.

Beeford in Holderneſſe the 10*th*. of the 10*th*. moneth, 1663.

Marmaduke Storr.
Geo: Hartas.
Tho: Thomson.
Francis Story.
Robert Prudome.
William Stringer.
Charles Cannabie.
Richard Pursglove.
Michaell Simpson.
Robert Miller.
Robert Fowler.